

Judge Greer,

My name is Shannon Widener and I am twenty-three years old. I have made a lot of mistakes in my life that I am ashamed of. I am not going to make excuses for what I have done. I will only ask for mercy and hopefully your help. I really feel like I have let my son and my family down and I am ready to change. I have been on the road to nowhere for longer than I care to remember. I started smoking marijuana at age fourteen which eventually, like everyone said it would, led to other drugs. I had my son at age sixteen. I could not have him naturally so the doctor performed a cesarian which was when I was introduced to prescription pain medication. At age seventeen I met and fell in love with Allan Moore who was ten years older than me. He also was addicted to drugs. It got to the point where we did anything we could get ahold of. We lived together for three years until an accidental overdose took his life. This should have shown me that drugs lead only to destruction but I didn't learn from it, things only got worse. I am ready to straighten up my life and be the mother that my six year old son deserves. His father

has never been a part of his life so I am who  
he looks up to and I don't feel as if I have  
been much of a role model. I know if you  
gave me a chance and sent me to rehabilitation  
I could straighten out my life for myself  
and my son. I know if I could deal with  
life's problems without turning to drugs  
or people on drugs I can be a better person.  
I truly want to live drug-free for the  
first time in my life. Drugs have taken  
everything from me and my son deserves so  
much better. Again I am not making excuses  
for my actions I am simply asking the court  
for mercy and your help to make me a  
better person. I know either way that I  
will learn from all of this. I just needed  
someone to show me how badly I was ruining  
my life and for this I want to thank you.  
Anything could have happened to me and you  
possibly saved my life. Thank you for taking  
the time to read this.

Shannon Widener